




# Idioms




Cut out the picture cards below. First put them face up on the table, and see how many of them the student has heard before. To help the student reflect, you can use the idiom in context, e.g. 'The teacher asks the class whether they are finding the work difficult, and one student says 'It's a piece of cake!'. What does the student mean?




You can then play a pairs game matching the idioms to their meanings to help the student learn idioms they are less familiar with.





Will you give me a hand?	Will you help me? 
You're a bit over the hill 	You're too old
Don't lose your head	Don't panic 
Don't let the cat out of the bag 	Don't tell my secret
You'll be in hot water	You'll be in trouble

<p>You're cracking me up</p> 	<p>You're making me laugh</p>
<p>I'm in over my head</p>	<p>This is too difficult for me</p> 
<p>Can you shed some light on this?</p>	<p>Tell me about this</p>
<p>You'll be in the doghouse</p> 	<p>You'll be in trouble</p>
<p>I'll blow my top</p>	<p>I'll be angry</p> 
<p>I've got egg on my face</p>	<p>I feel like a fool</p>
<p>You blew it</p> 	<p>You got it wrong</p>

Shake a leg	Hurry up
Just what the doctor ordered 	It's just what I need
Keep your eyes peeled	Look carefully 
I'll have a nose around	I'll explore
I'm having a whale of a time 	I'm having a good time
My eyes are bigger than my stomach	I've eaten too much 
It's just sour grapes	She's jealous

<p>A feather in your cap</p> 	<p>Something to be proud of</p>
<p>Sick as a dog</p>	<p>Very upset</p>
<p>That's fishy</p>	<p>That's strange/suspicious</p>
<p>Raining cats and dogs</p>	<p>Raining heavily</p> 
<p>Hold your horses</p>	<p>Slow down</p>
<p>Butterflies in my stomach</p> 	<p>Nervous/frightened</p>
<p>Keep it under your hat</p>	<p>Keep it a secret/keep quiet about it</p>

<p>I'm tied up at the moment</p> 	<p>I'm busy at the moment</p>
<p>Put a sock in it</p> 	<p>Be quiet</p>
<p>Pull yourself together</p>	<p>Control yourself/calm down</p>
<p>You've got a long face</p>	<p>You look sad</p> 
<p>I shot myself in the foot</p>	<p>I did something that made the situation worse</p>
<p>I'm fed up</p>	<p>I'm bored</p> 
<p>He's a pain in the neck</p>	<p>He's a nuisance</p>

<p>Break the ice</p> 	<p>Get to know each other</p>
<p>Get lost</p> 	<p>Go away</p>
<p>Don't jump down her throat</p>	<p>Don't be cross with her</p>
<p>His bark is worse than his bite</p> 	<p>He may sound unfriendly, but he isn't</p>
<p>Hit the roof</p>	<p>Be angry</p> 
<p>I'm shaking in my boots</p>	<p>I'm frightened</p>
<p>You're going to have to face the music</p>	<p>You will have to accept the consequences of what you've done</p>